

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Cancel Paragraph 29 and insert the following new Paragraph 29 which changes two references to the numeral "34" to the numeral "44". Also cancel Paragraphs 34 and 35 and insert the following new Paragraphs 34 and 35 which delete reference to the numeral "51".

**[0029]** The details of construction of the finger flexure regions 34 of the finger pad 32 are also illustrated in Fig. 2. At the flexure region 34, the uppermost material layer 38 is split and a hinge panel 44 is stitched or otherwise joined to the uppermost material layer 38. To provide maximum protection, the uppermost material layer 38 is typically fabricated from material which is wear resistant and slightly stiff, and it has little tendency to bend when formed as a protective pad. The material for the hinge panel 44, on the other hand, is selected to be somewhat more pliable and to provide an overall greater length of material for the top of the finger pad 32 so that it may be bent as illustrated in Fig. 2. At each flexure region 34, a portion of the high density padding 42 is split or removed from under the hinge panel 44. In the side view of Fig.2, the removal of the high density padding 42 is illustrated as a V-shaped notch 46. It is important for the purpose of mobility, that the entire layer of the high density padding be split and, for such purpose, the V-shaped notch extends to the low density padding 40. Thus constructed, the finger pad 32 may be bent as shown in Fig. 2, or may be straightened as shown in Fig. 3. When the finger pad 32 is bent, the hinge panel 44 will effectively be stretched to accommodate the contour of the finger pad 32. And when the finger pad 32 is straightened, the hinge panel 44 will pucker or bellow up to permit this range of motion.

**[0034]** Overlying the back panel 14 in the region of the thumb stall 20 is a wear resistant material layer 50 secured along its periphery to the back panel 14 to form a pocket for receiving a protective thumb plate 52. The thumb plate 52 is formed as a rigid shell which is substantially concave throughout its length and which terminates in a domed nose at the outer end thereof as illustrated in FIG. 10. Intermediate to the ends of the thumb plate 52 is formed a bulbous lateral ridge 54. The ridge 54 is preferably located in the region of the thumb plate 52 registering roughly between the first and second joints of the user's thumb. Foam padding layers 56 & 58 engage the inner and outer surfaces of the thumb plate 52 to thereby encase the thumb plate 52 in a layer of padding when it is received in the pocket formed by the material layer 50 and the portion of the back panel 14 to which it is joined.

**[0035]** Secured between the hand back pad 26 and the pocket encasing the rigid thumb plate 52, there is positioned a rigid locking plate 60 of which the tail end, as shown in Figs. 5 & 10, extends into or under the wrist cuff 24. A padded material cover 62 may be stitched to the forward end of the locking plate 60 to cushion the edges thereof. The forwardmost end of the locking plate 60 is positioned immediately behind the ridge 54 formed in the thumb plate 52.

### **Amendments to the Specification Showing Changes:**

**[0029]** The details of construction of the finger flexure regions 34 of the finger pad 32 are also illustrated in Fig. 2. At the flexure region 34, the uppermost material layer 38 is split and a hinge panel 44 is stitched or otherwise joined to the uppermost material layer 38. To provide maximum protection, the uppermost material layer 38 is typically fabricated from material which is wear resistant and slightly stiff, and it has little tendency to bend when formed as a protective pad. The material for the hinge panel 44, on the other hand, is selected to be somewhat more pliable and to provide an overall greater length of material for the top of the finger pad 32 so that it may be bent as illustrated in Fig. 2. At each flexure region 34, a portion of the high density padding 42 is split or removed from under the hinge panel 44. In the side view of Fig.2, the removal of the high density padding 42 is illustrated as a V-shaped notch 46. It is important for the purpose of mobility, that the entire layer of the high density padding be split and, for such purpose, the V-shaped notch extends to the low density padding 40. Thus constructed, the finger pad 32 may be bent as shown in Fig. 2, or may be straightened as shown in Fig. 3. When the finger pad 32 is bent, the hinge panel ~~[[34]]~~ 44 will effectively be stretched to accommodate the contour of the finger pad 32. And when the finger pad 32 is straightened, the hinge panel ~~[[34]]~~ 44 will pucker or bellow up to permit this range of motion.

**[0034]** Overlying the back panel 14 in the region of the thumb stall 20 is a wear resistant material layer 50 secured along its periphery to the back panel 14 to form a pocket ~~[[51]]~~ for receiving a protective thumb plate 52. The thumb plate 52 is formed as a rigid shell which is substantially concave throughout its length and which terminates in

a domed nose at the outer end thereof as illustrated in FIG. 10. Intermediate to the ends of the thumb plate 52 is formed a bulbous lateral ridge 54. The ridge 54 is preferably located in the region of the thumb plate 52 registering roughly between the first and second joints of the user's thumb. Foam padding layers 56 & 58 engage the inner and outer surfaces of the thumb plate 52 to thereby encase the thumb plate 52 in a layer of padding when it is received in the pocket [[51]] formed by the material layer 50 and the portion of the back panel 14 to which it is joined.

**[0035]** Secured between the hand back pad 26 and the pocket [[51]] encasing the rigid thumb plate 52, there is positioned a rigid locking plate 60 of which the tail end, as shown in Figs. 5 & 10, extends into or under the wrist cuff 24. A padded material cover 62 may be stitched to the forward end of the locking plate 60 to cushion the edges thereof. The forwardmost end of the locking plate 60 is positioned immediately behind the ridge 54 formed in the thumb plate 52.